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Security Council

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Letter dated 13 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 10 October 2003, which I received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-55457 (E) 131003

Letter dated 10 October 2003 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Afghan Government, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the United Nations efforts towards stability and security in Afghanistan, in particular through the development of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) under Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) of 20 December 2001 and subsequent resolutions. We hereby reiterate our continued support for this mission.

Notwithstanding the considerable progress made in providing security in Kabul and the surrounding areas thanks to the assistance of ISAF, the security situation in various parts of the country remains relatively unstable and is a continued impediment to further progress in reconstruction and development overall.

The Afghan authorities have repeatedly welcomed the assumption of strategic command, control and coordination of ISAF by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and take note of its stabilizing role in Afghanistan, including the prospect of an expansion of NATO's ISAF mission as outlined in the letters of the Secretary-General of NATO of 2 and 6 October 2003 (see S/2003/970). The Afghan authorities also welcome the NATO intention to deploy a pilot project in Kunduz and to undertake deployments outside Kabul in support of specific events or processes (such as electoral and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration-related events) subject to a new Security Council mandate.

The Afghan Government therefore requests the Security Council to consider expanding the mandate of ISAF in Afghanistan, as proposed by the Secretary-General of NATO in his letters of 2 and 6 October 2003.

Referring to my letter of 14 December 2001 to the President of the Security Council, the Afghan Government reiterates the need for full coordination with the Afghan authorities in Kabul, as occurs now with the existing ISAF mission.

The Afghan Government expresses once more its profound gratitude for the assistance rendered so far by the Security Council, its member States, NATO and the international community to the Afghan people and hopes that the Security Council will consider its requests favourably in its pertinent resolutions.

(*Signed*) A. **Abdullah**
Minister for Foreign Affairs